The Acalanes DramaDons Present...

ONE ACT SHAKE SPEARE LIVE!

MACBETH

MIDSUMMER

By William Shakespeare
Adapted by the Acalanes DramaDons

April 30 - May 1, 2021
7:00pm

A Note From the Producer

Fourteen months ago, everything went sideways. One moment, the DramaDons were rehearsing our spring production of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare and the next, we were sheltering in place. Soon, it became clear to theater makers everywhere that it would be a long time until we would be back in rooms together, creating art. Actors, technicians, teachers, and students everywhere wrestled with how to cope with this profound loss. How can we do the transformative and important work of theatre when the essential circumstance of being in the same room together was no longer possible?

It wasn't long before the theatre community responded with innovation and imagination, creating new ways to tell stories and connect with audiences. One company in particular, The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, devised an entirely new process. Using existing technological tools, they pioneered the Virtual Unified Space (VUS) method. This process allowed an entire cast to perform in the safety of their own homes while their respective images were composited into a single frame, thus giving the illusion that the company was performing together. The fact that VUS shows could happen simultaneously and live made it even more innovative. The theater community is intensely collaborative, so it is no surprise that SF Shakes was gracious enough to teach the basics of their process to our theatre students, the DramaDons of Acalanes High. And it is no surprise that our DramaDons picked it up and ran with it.

A Note From the Producer (cont.)

The production you are about to watch is happening in real time. The actors are in separate rooms on the Acalanes campus, acting in front of their own green screens. While they are physically separated, they are connected in the moment, through the story; this is what's so exciting about this project. One of the many things we've learned from this process is that while performers and audience may not share the same physical space, we do share the same moment. The fact that we are all in the same virtual space provides a powerful connection between the audience and performers. Before March 2020, we didn't know this was possible.

This whole process has been incredibly inspiring to me as an educator. These performances are the result of months of design, development and rehearsal by our student directors, student producers, computer technicians, costumers, props managers, background artists, and, of course, actors. When we began this project, as the producer, I was confident that this challenge could be met while I definitely did not know exactly how. I could not be more proud of the production crew and cast of One Act Shakespeare Live: Macbeth & Midsummer.

Ed Meehan
April 2021

Macbeth Cast

Isabel Powell	Director
Evan Mirabella	Banquo
Victoria Ness	Witch 2, Murderer 2, Lennox
Madison Payne	Macduff
Ray Roberts	Macbeth
Laura Selle	Malcolm
Diane Saali	Witch 3, Captain
Allyndreth Smyth	Lady Macbeth
Chloe Starczewski	Witch 1, Murderer 1, Lady Macduff
Paige Towery	Ross
Jon VanHoy	Servant, Fleance, Macduff's son
Blaine Wampler	Duncan

Midsummer Cast

Megan Crane	Director
Desiree Blakeney	Flute, Mustardseed
Dagny Bradford-Urban	Puck
Devon Christensen	Helena, Peaseblossom, Snout
Evan Clark	Oberon, Snug
Giovanna Fry	Hermia, Starveling
Georgia Grana	Quince
Keith Johnson	Bottom
Katherine Groszewski	Lysander, Titania
Quinn Elle	Demetrius

**For tonight's performance, the roles of Flute and Mustardseed will be portrayed by Megan Crane*

Production Team

Program Director - Executive Producer.....Ed Meehan

Macbeth Director.....Isabel Powell

Midsummer Director.....Megan Crane

Macbeth Assistant Director.....Madison Payne

Midsummer Assistant Director.....Keith Johnson

Student Producer.....Clea Hansen

Assistant Producer and Stage Manager.....Rylyn Groves

Costume Directors.....Miriya Huie, Ellyn Nys

Technical Director.....Jonas Buchel

Stagecraft:

Matthew Colvin, Megan Crane, Grace Cunningham, Nigel Dietsch, Josh Edmon-Macias, Kylie Edwards, Giovanna Fry, Ellie Gainey, Sierra Gates, Ben Goldzband, Georgia Grana, Jason Gray, Rylyn Groves, Eli Hamalian, Clea Hansen, Miriya Huie, Jimmy Hutson, Sequoia Meyer, Tadich Montgomery, Ryland Nella, Ellyn Nys, Isabel Powell, Grace Sizemore, Allyndreth Smyth, Lexi Sofield, Elena Taylor, Umaima Yasin

Stagecraft Crew Heads:

Miriya Huie & Ellyn Nys (Costumes), Giovanna Fry (Digital Backgrounds), Eli Hamalian & Allyndreth Smyth (Props), Jonas Buchel (Tech)

Additional Credits

Prologue/Credits Director: Keith Johnson

Poster Design: Ed Meehan & Chris Busse

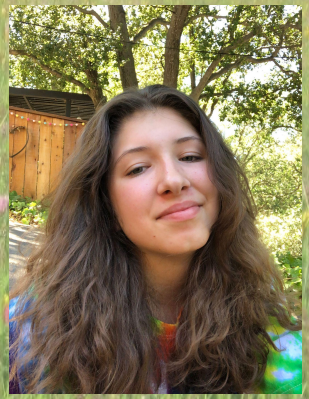
Program: Clea Hansen & Ed Meehan

IT Support: Patrick O'Toole

Standby Crew

Dagny Bradford-Urban, Grace Cunningham, Megan Crane, Georgia Grana, Katherine Groszewski, Rylyn Groves, Eli Hamalian, Clea Hansen, Miriya Huie, Keith Johnson, Evan Mirabella, Ellyn Nys, Madison Payne, Isabel Powell, Chloe Starczewski, Blaine Wampler

Midsummer Cast



Megan Crane- Director

Katherine Groszewski

Dagny Bradford-Urban

Quinn Elle

Keith Johnson

Devon Christensen

Giovanna Fry

Desiree Blakeney

Evan Clark

Georgia Grana

Macbeth Cast

Isabel Powell- Director

Ray Roberts

Allyndreth Smyth

Evan Mirabella

Madison Payne

Paige
Towe

Laura Selle

Chloe Starczewski

Victoria Ness

Diane Saali

Jon VanHoy

Blaine Wampler

Bios

Desiree Blakeney~

This is Desiree's third year in drama as she continuously works on her acting skills. She started off with a bang as she got a role in the school play *The Laramie Project* and became a member of improvadons. She loves doing things out of her comfort zone and overachieving. Her most favorite piece to work on was a radio talk show where you act only by the tone of your voice and speaking with passion.

Dagny Bradford-Urban~

Hey! Dagny Bradford-Urban is so grateful to be in her second performance with the DramaDons. Though she's done several plays with other theater companies, the wonderful folks at Acalanes are her favorite group of people to work with and (gently) cyberbully on Zoom. This is the first Shakespeare play she's done and she's a little nervous but excited nonetheless. She hopes you enjoy the show and thank you for coming!

Devon Christensen~

Devon hopes you enjoy the show.

Evan Clark~

Hi, I'm Evan Clark. I love cats. They are all my friends and I love them. It has been difficult this year in drama because of COVID. We have been working hard to put on a performance, so I hope you will enjoy it.

Bios Cont.

Megan Crane~

Hi everyone. First Megan would like to thank her cast for putting up with her and her shenanigans. Second Megan would like to thank Meehan for letting her direct this play even though she has no directing experience (shocking right?!). Now as Megan is a senior and this is her last play with the DramaDons she would like to take a trip down memory lane. Done. Thanks for going on it with her. I hope you liked it and much as she did. And with that Megan is signing off and she hopes you enjoy Willy Shake's: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

Quinn Elle~

Quinn enjoys play!

Katherine Groszewski~

Katherine hope you enjoy the play!

Georgia Grana~

Hi, this is Georgia's first play at Acalanes, although you may have seen her in Georgia's 2nd-grade production of *February on Trial* where she played Miss Valentines. Her director Megan asked her to include some nice things about her so Megan is an amazing director and it has been so fun working with her these past few months.

Giovanna Fry~

What's up homie, it's Giovanna, the super tall menace to society. And while being a menace, she hopes you enjoy her attempts at Shakespeare and her passion for humorously embarrassing herself. Even though she might be embarrassing her family name, she's very glad to be apart of a virtual production for the Acalanes DramaDons. Enjoy the show because she's sure she and her cast will.

Bios Cont.

Keith Johnson~

Keith Johnson is very excited to be in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He loves being a part of the DramaDons and hopes to perform in more plays in the future. In case this performance wins him an Oscar, he would like to thank his friends and family. Enjoy the play!

Evan Mirabella~

Hello! Let's get to know each other: What will be your most memorable experience of COVID times? Getting your vaccine? The presidential election? Making meaningful memories with your loved ones? Wrong. It will be this high school theater production of abridged Shakespeare plays and you and me are going to love it. Say it with me, "I am going to love it". Why? Because Evan told you so. Also because they're actually good.. Well, this has been fun. Thank you for supporting the DramaDons and enjoy!

Victoria "Tori" Ness~

Hello! Victoria Ness is the one who is able to do the creepy old voice. Please enjoy her looking frazzled with the quick changes and the fast voice changes! And if she stumbles over lines, well it's Shakespeare, this isn't exactly easy. Genuinely though, she and the other people involved have worked very hard and are very proud to show you the result of this hard work! Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Bios Cont.

Madison Payne~
Madison is a senior and is very excited to play Macduff in this year's production of *Macbeth*. This is Madison's third year as a Dramadon, but her first ever production. Aside from performing, she also likes to write, go for long walks, and make collages.

Isabel Powell~
What's goin on! This is the second DramaDon production Isabel Powell has been a part of. She is excited to be directing *Macbeth* this semester. But don't give her too much credit, I guarantee you she doesn't actually know what she's doing half of the time. Isabel is notorious for never having warm-up game ideas, always drinking too much coffee before rehearsals, and probably over-explaining what Shakespeare's text means. This graduating senior is ready to watch this production come to life, and she hopes you are ecstatic to see it too. Enjoy the show!

Ray Roberts~
A Maryland native living in California, Ray Roberts takes full advantage of the wonderful weather and people around her. She enjoys going for slow drives that aggravate others and making coffee for money. This is her first production at Acalanes High, and she is so excited to be performing as Macbeth. Ray couldn't be more thankful to have such amazing people working on the show, and the support from the cast has really made her senior year. She hopes you enjoy the show, and that you're doing alright in these trying times. :))

Bios Cont.

Diane Saali~

Hi everyone! Diane Saali is your lovable clown that loves to crack jokes. Unfortunately, in the play she portrays the roles of Captain and Witch #3 who are two very serious characters. Fortunately, you may see Captain or Witch #3 crack at times where they show a bit of happiness. Normally, Diane is not a serious person, and is always making people laugh. Diane hopes that you enjoy the play. Also she notes to all the viewers that they shouldn't mess with the weird sisters, or they may place a curse upon you.

Laura Selle~

Laura kindly asks you to forgive any spelling or grammer mistakes in this bio. English is not their best subject. They would like you to know how much fun they've had in drama (a lot) and how nice it is to have a chill class with everything going on. The Laura hopes you enjoy the show, and would also like to wish you a wonderful (and murder free) night :D

Allyndreth Smyth~

Welcome! After a long time working backstage, Allyndreth is excited to make her Acalanes DramaDon debut as late as possible! She hopes her Lady Macbeth can stir some unsettling feelings from the audience, even over Zoom. As she is a second-semester Senior, she hopes to send off this crazy year with a bang! Enjoy the show.

Jon VanHoy~

Greetings! Jon VanHoy shows up a short time in this play, but is dedicated for his role. He enjoys Drama like everyone else he works with and he hopes you enjoy this play! Please enjoy the show!

Bios Cont.

Chloe Starczewski~
Though usually working behind the scenes as a dramaturg or a literary editor for works of Shakespeare, this time Chloe is taking the stage to perform in *Macbeth.* They're very worried about forgetting all their lines and passing out on stage but assuming that probably won't happen, they're excited to get to perform in their first Dramadons production.

Paige Towery~
Hi! This is Paige's second DramaDons play. She is very excited to be a part of such a great group of people. She doesn't like milk. She has loved adjusting to this new format of acting even with all its challenges. She really hates milk. Paige would like to thank her friends, family, and lactose intolerant people for doing what needs to be done. She would also like to thank the inventor of Go-Gurt for making yogurt faster.

Blaine Wampler~
Hey whats up! Blaine Wampler plays the role of the jolly King, Duncan. Although a busy actor throughout his childhood, This is his first production with the DramaDons and he's really looking forward to it. This is his first and hopefully only Digital theatre experience and he hopes that those who watch enjoy the show! Please give a special thanks to everyone involved with making this performance a reality! Enjoy the show!

Acknowledgements

The DramaDons would not have been able to make this production happen without the following people: **Patrick O'Tool** for his invaluable technical support. **The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival** for their groundbreaking work that made our production possible. **Heather Cousins** of Miramonte Drama for breaking ground with this process in our district.

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And a huge special thank you to Natalie Moore and
William July Moore Meehan.

In loving memory of
James Meehan
1940–2020

Affectionately known as Mr. Mr. Meehan, Jim was not only our finance advisor for many years but a stalwart supporter of our program as well. The DramaDons dedicate these performances to him. We know how much he would have enjoyed them.